

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

Office of the Secretary

May 4, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY DOUGLAS

SUBJECT: Congressional Summary

1. 86th Congress - The Senate is in adjournment until noon tomorrow. The House called bills on the Consent Calendar and adjourned at 2:50 p.m. until noon tomorrow.
2. DOD Budget - The DOD Subcommittee, Senate Appropriations Committee today received testimony on the DOD budget for FY 1960 from Secretary of Defense McElroy and General Twining. Tomorrow's witnesses will be Secretary of Army Brucker and General Taylor. On May 7 Secretary of AF Douglas and General White will be the witnesses.
3. Renegotiation - The House Ways and Means Committee is continuing its hearings in executive today on extension of the Renegotiation Act.
4. Radiation - The Special Subcommittee on Radiation (Holifield, Chairman) meets tomorrow in open session on the problem of radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons tests. Public witnesses are scheduled.
5. Mutual Security - The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today heard testimony on mutual security authorization from Under Secretary of State Dillon. On Wednesday, May 6 Secretary of Defense McElroy and General Twining testify in open and closed sessions starting at 10:30 a.m.
6. Cold War - The Senate Government Operations Committee today approved a proposal for a broad study of whether the executive branch of the Government is geared to frame cold war policies necessary for survival. Sen. Jackson was named Chairman of the Subcommittee to make the study. Other members are Senators Humphrey and Mundt. Sen. Jackson will present the resolution to the Senate for approval.
7. Military Construction - The Sheppard Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee today received testimony on line items on military construction appropriations from AF Generals Minton, and Dreyer, and Mr. Lewis Turner. Hearings continue tomorrow at 10 a.m. with AF Gens Minton, Dreyer, and Curtin, all of AFOCE, and Mr. Turner of SAFFM.

USAF review(s) completed.

s/ Bourne Adkison  
t/ BOURNE ADKISON  
Colonel, USAF  
Deputy Director  
Legislative Liaison

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The following items are for your consideration in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD dated May 1, 1959, Vol. 105, No. 69:

Berlin Crisis

P 6565 - Sen Byrd (W.Va.) - made a comprehensive study of the events which have led up to the Berlin crisis. To prevent World War III he said we must parry every thrust of communism on the political front, the economic front, and the military front.

P 6573 - As to the military front, the Senator called for unhesitating use of nuclear weapons should it become necessary (difference between freedom and submission). However, he also called for a balanced defense force so that we would not be placed in a position wherein any situation calling for military force would give us no choice but nuclear warfare. Cited the Lebanon situation. The Senator is concerned with our present military posture - Army cuts, Navy getting aged in its fleet components. Stated, "Our conventional forces appear to be bearing the brunt of our budget cuts. But even our retaliatory deterrent power, the planes and missiles . . . faces a possibility of inadequacy in the future. By 1961-62 it is estimated that the Soviet Union may have a 3-to-1 lead over the U. S. in intercontinental missiles." As an ending to his military phase discussion Sen Byrd said. "The key to the triumph of freedom over communism is military strength".

Soviet Siberia

P 6558 - Sen Gruening (Alaska) - inserted several newspaper articles on Soviet Russia's development of Siberia.

Free Enterprise and National Defense

P 6560 - Sen Martin (Iowa) - discussed and inserted articles on what he called "the one outstanding conclusion which is left with an objective student in this area is that big business is destined to play an important role in America's efforts in the space age."

Legislative Program

Senate does not meet today. Meets Tuesday, May 5. House meets at noon today to call bills on the Consent Calendar and other bills under suspension of the rules. Should a rule be granted the House is scheduled to debate this week S. 57, Housing Act of 1959.

Chief, Legislative Research